



**2025:
A Critical Year for the Ocean**

**March
2025**

A Super Year for the Ocean – 2025:

We are now just weeks away from two of the most important milestones for the Ocean in the last few years: the **Blue Economy and Finance Forum (BEFF)** and the **Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3)**. These global gatherings will bring together leaders from the ocean, governments, finance, science and policy communities to help chart the course for a **sustainable and regenerative blue economy**.

However, we are also at a crucial point. Numerous international ocean-related agreements—years in the making—demand **immediate action in 2025** to become truly effective.

To support our members and partners, we've put together this **overview outlining the key opportunities to engage**, with links to more information and suggested recommendations for action.



**Race to ratify the High
Seas Treaty and the WTO
Agreement on Fisheries
Subsidies**

**Negotiations on a
Global Plastics
Treaty**

**New regulations for
Deep-Sea Mining
(DSM)**

**A potential levy on
maritime shipping**

**The first Blue Economy
and Finance Forum
(BEFF) &
the Third UN Ocean
Conference (UNOC3)**

**A nature-focused
climate COP in Brazil**

+ more

2025 has it all

Protecting the High Seas

(High Seas Treaty / BBNJ Agreement)

To conserve and sustainably use marine resources beyond national jurisdiction (61% of the Ocean)

Complements existing agreements: the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UN Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS)

20 Countries have ratified the Treaty. Once 60 countries sign and ratify, the Treaty will enter into force. UNOC3 is a key moment for countries to ratify the treaty

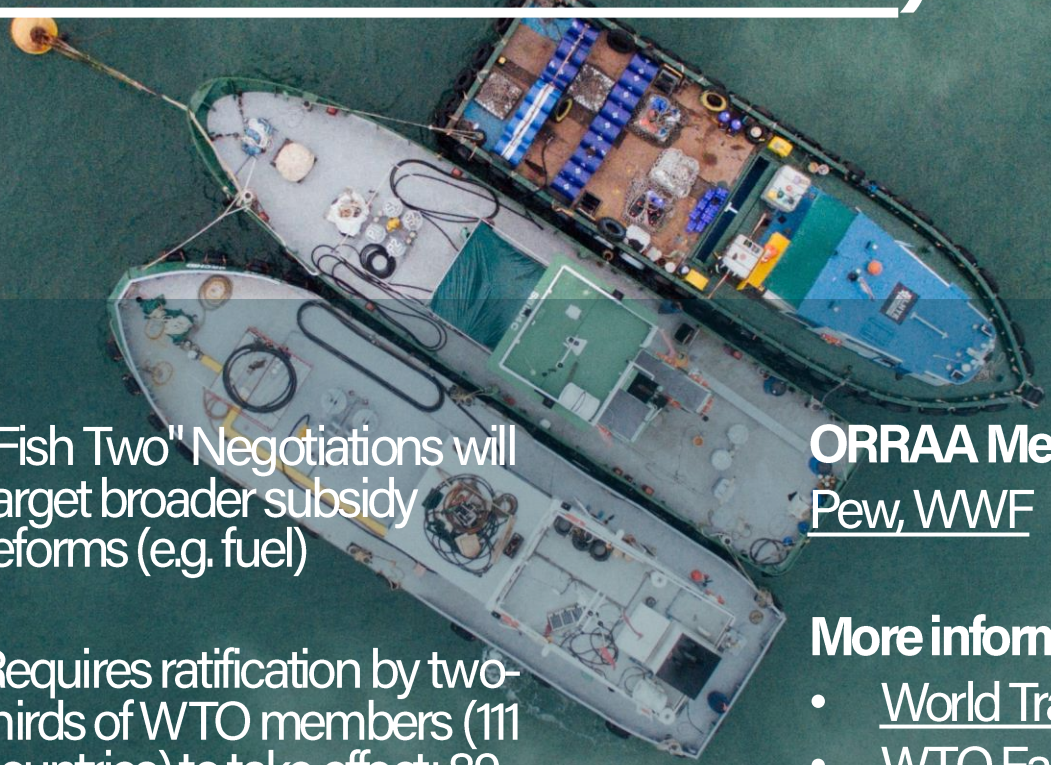
ORRAA Members Leading the Way:
IUCN, Pew, TNC, Conservation International

More information:

- High Seas Alliance
- Digital Sequence Information (DSI) as a Means of Financing Under the BBNJ Agreement (Policy Brief)

Tackling Harmful Fisheries Subsidies

(WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies)



Adopted in June 2022 to address harmful fisheries subsidies ("Fish One")

Target subsidies contributing to Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and overfished stocks

"Fish Two" Negotiations will target broader subsidy reforms (e.g. fuel)

Requires ratification by two-thirds of WTO members (111 countries) to take effect; 89 members have ratified it

ORRAA Members Leading the Way:
Pew, WWF

More information:

- [World Trade Organization](#)
- [WTO Fact Sheet](#)
- [IISD Explainer](#)

A Levy on Maritime Shipping

If shipping were a country, it would be the sixth largest emitter of GHG emissions

Implementing carbon pricing would make the use of fossil fuels more expensive, incentivising decarbonisation

Over 50 countries support a proposal to charge commercial vessels a flat fee for each tonne of carbon emitted

Countries are expected to reach an agreement at the 18th International Maritime Organization (IMO) meeting in London, between 7-11 April 2025

If adopted, a levy is expected to enter into force globally in early 2027

More information:

- International Maritime Organization
- Governments Expected to Agree on World's First Levy on Shipping Emissions At Upcoming IMO Meeting

Developing Rules for Deep-Sea Mining (DSM)

DSM is highly controversial, with environmental impacts largely unknown

The vast majority of deep-sea marine scientists and a growing list of 32 countries advocate for a moratorium, precautionary pause, or outright ban to DSM

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) aims to finalise regulations for the commercial exploitation of deep-sea minerals on its upcoming session in Kingston, Jamaica, between 21-25 July 2025

ORRAA Members Leading the Way:
Conservation International, Ocean Conservancy, Pew, IUCN, WWF, Deutsche Bank, Standard Chartered

More information:

- ORRAA Policy Brief on Deep Sea Mining
- Business Statement Supporting a Moratorium on Deep Sea Mining
- Harmful Marine Extractives (UNEP-FI)

Securing a Global Plastics Treaty

8-10 million metric tons of plastic end up in the ocean annually: 80% of all marine pollution

The Treaty aims for a legally binding agreement covering the entire lifecycle of plastics. Differences among nations remain on this scope

A High Ambition Coalition (over 100 countries) advocates for binding commitments to reduce virgin plastic production and eliminate harmful chemicals

Negotiations will continue between 5 - 14 August 2025 (Geneva, Switzerland). Registration instructions [here](#)

ORRAA Members Leading the Way:
Pew, WWF, Ocean Conservancy

More information:

- [Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution](#)
- [High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution](#)

Ocean and Climate Financing – Opportunity at COP 30

At COP30 in Belém, Brazil, the ocean must be recognised as key to meeting global climate goals. As Parties aim to mobilise USD 1.3 trillion annually by 2035, ocean-climate solutions must be clearly reflected in funding and implementation frameworks

Our Recommendations

Integrate into NDCs/NAPs:
Support countries to include ocean action in national plans and access funding

De-risk Investment:
Use blended finance, guarantees, and insurance-backed tools to attract capital at scale

Boost Coherence:
Align climate and biodiversity finance frameworks to increase transparency and impact

More information:

- [Unpacking Ocean Finance for Climate Action](#)
- [COP30 Official Website](#)



**2025 is a year of
milestones for ocean
governance and
conservation**



Our recommendations for 2025: Governments

1

Ratify the High Seas Treaty and the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

2

Support a Precautionary Pause on DSM; do not allow DSM in jurisdictional waters

3

Integrate ocean-based measures and targets in national climate strategies and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)



Our recommendations for 2025: Private Sector

1

Join the #BackBlue
Ocean Finance
Commitment

2

Exclude deep sea minerals
from supply chains
Exclude new oil and gas
and DSM exploration and
exploitation from financing

3

Increase financing for
innovative solutions in the
regenerative and
sustainable blue economy

Key Events in 2025

Our Ocean Conference (OOC) Busan, South Korea / April 28-30

- 2025 marks the 10th edition
- It has generated over 2,600 voluntary commitments worth \$140 billion for marine conservation

UN Ocean Conference (UNOC) Nice, France / June 9-13

- Hosted by France and Costa Rica, a crucial opportunity to advance SDG14
- Expected outcomes include the Nice Ocean Action Plan, potential High Seas Treaty new ratifications, and public-private sector commitments

The Blue Economy and Finance Forum (BEFF) – Monaco / June 7-8

- A spotlight for sustainable investment and innovation to foster collaboration to build a resilient ocean economy
- ORRAA is participating in the core team to advise Monaco on how to ensure impactful outcomes from the BEFF

IUCN Congress Abu Dhabi, UAE / October 9-15

- Every 4 years, a major global gathering for experts and leaders to discuss and address critical conservation challenges
- Platform to tackle issues like marine pollution, overfishing, and climate change, while also mobilising resources for biodiversity protection

UNFCCC COP30 Belém, Brazil / November 10-21

- Presents an opportunity to merge tropical forest and ocean conservation into global climate strategies as significant carbon sinks
- The "Road from Nice to Belém", launched by Presidents Lula and Macron, aims to bridge the outcomes of UNOC3 and COP30, fostering an integrated approach to ocean conservation and climate change



**And because finance
from all sources **is crucial,**
we are:**

Promoting the #BackBlue Ocean Finance Commitment



The #BACKBLUE Ocean Finance Commitment ensures that a regenerating and sustainable ocean has a seat at the table in finance and insurance decisions.

The cumulative value of Assets Under Management by current endorsers of #BackBlue amounts to USD\$2,693bn.

#BackBlue signatories:



Deutsche Bank



wtw



WORLD
ECONOMIC
FORUM

#BackBlue

Building a Capital Market for the Ocean



Through the Sea Change Impact Financing Facility (SCIFF), ORRAA is driving a step-change in ocean financing from the top-down.



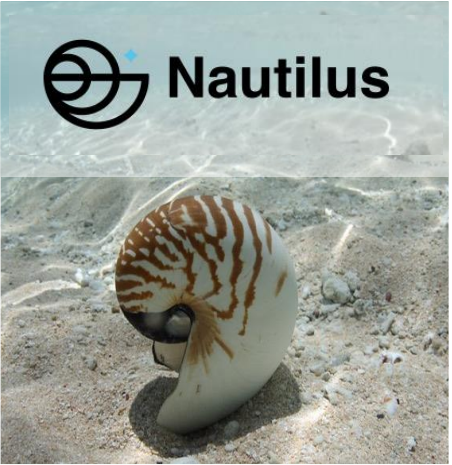
A dedicated sustainable ocean impact fund focused on addressing the 'missing middle' financing gap in SIDS and coastal LDCs.

(Set-Up Stage)



A blue marketplace platform enabling sustainable blue economy transaction match-making and technical assistance for investors and project developers.

(In Development)



A means of de-risking investments into sustainable blue economy sectors through the provision of guarantees.

(Set-Up Stage)



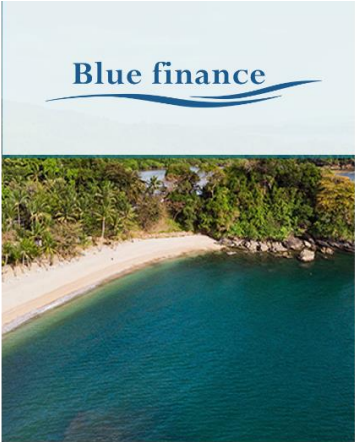
Assisting in the development and deployment of blue bonds in SIDS and developing coastal countries through technical and financial services.

(Set-Up Stage)



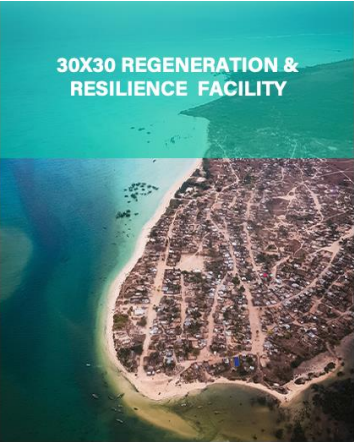
Gives donors the opportunity to provide long-term support and plug the gaps left by more traditional fundraising approaches.

(Operational)



Transforming marine protected areas and livelihoods through investment in sustainable Blue Economy reef-positive businesses.

(Operational)



An insurance premium levy to cover the costs of 30x30 designation, monitoring and enforcement, and post disaster resilience rebuilding for SIDS and LDCs.

(Feasibility Stage)

Building the Product Pipeline

Incubating and scaling the development of **community-led finance and insurance products** that build **coastal and ocean resilience**:



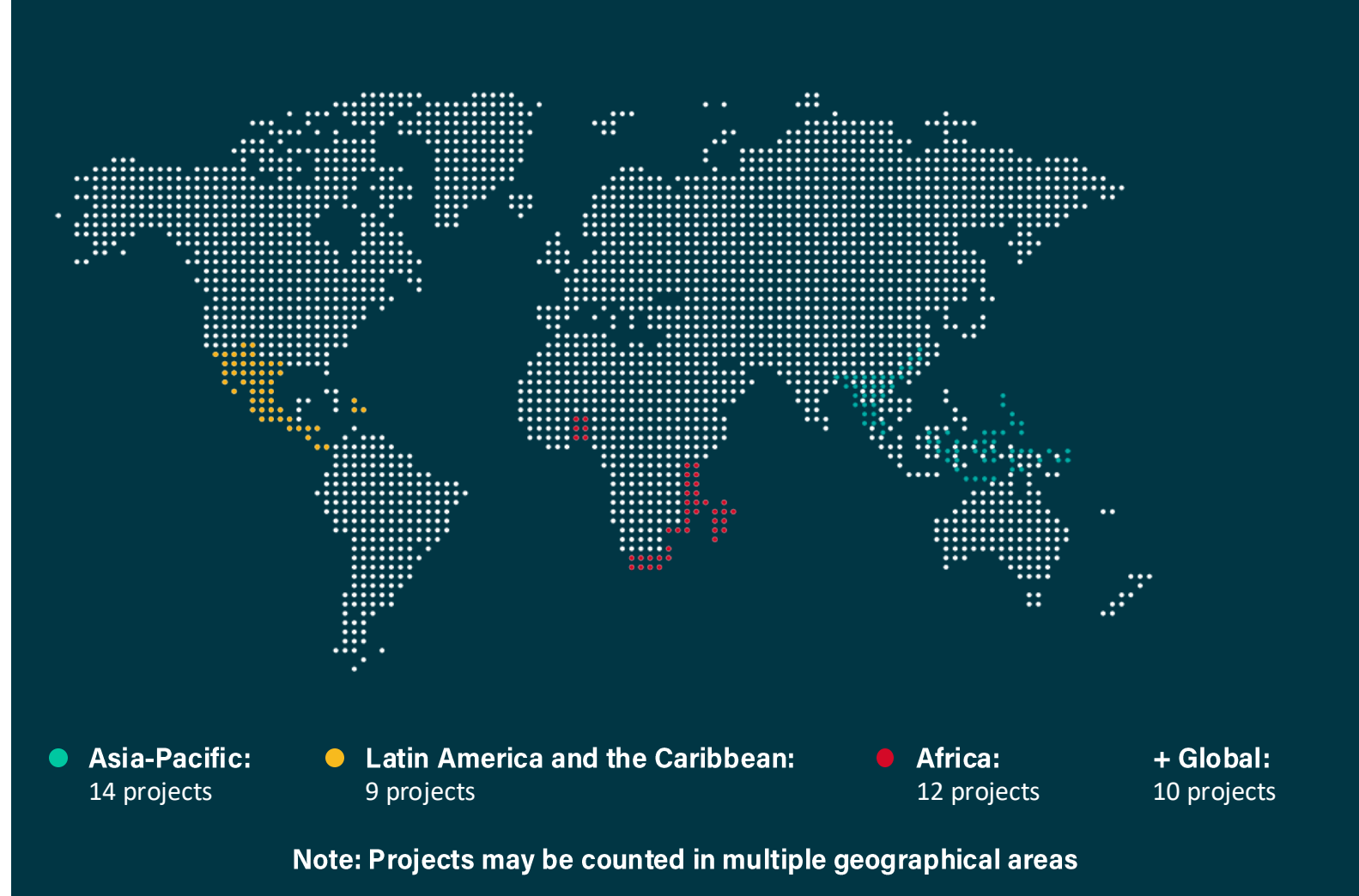
Locking in **sustainable financing**



Locally led



Climate, nature and gender positive





Our Alliance is leading the way to build these solutions. Together, we are driving a wave of action, and we are looking for partners to leverage these investments further:

Instrument	Committed (USD 2023-2025)	Requested (USD)
Product Pipeline	\$18.4m (Objective: At least 60 products in pipeline with 10 taken to market)	\$5m/annum to invest into grants (By 2030, additional 150 products in pipeline with 20 taken to market)
Ocean Resilience Innovation Challenge (ORIC)	\$1.2m	\$750k/annum, 2024-2030
ORRAA Secretariat	\$6.4m	\$3m/annum, 2025-2030
Octopus Desk	\$500k to scope and develop	\$1m to cover projected operating costs 2025 - 2028
Outrigger Fund (Blended + TA)	\$250k for set-up	\$10m senior debt investment to reach first close and launch fund (Target \$35m and first close Q3 2025; \$100m and final close by Q4 2026)
	\$2m – Senior Debt \$10.5m - Equity \$4.5m – technical assistance (TA) facility	
Nautilus The Blue Guarantee Facility (Blended + TA)	\$200k – feasibility studies (funded) \$580k – development (funded + committed)	\$1.5m for additional development funding \$50m in paid-in equity for first financial close by 2025/26 (\$200m total to be raised over 10yrs, leveraged to mobilise \$1bn in private finance)
Neptune Endowment	\$1.08m	\$1m + TBD investment
Blue Bond Accelerator	\$200k – feasibility \$1M – establishment (2025 - 2027)	\$15m total (\$1m set up in 2025; \$3m/annum, 2026-2030)
Blue Finance Facility for MPAs	\$9.4m	\$1.5m private capital + \$1.3m non-refundable grant to support total budget of \$12.2m
Self-Replenishing Ocean & Nature Resilience Fund	\$150k for feasibility study	TBD
TOTALS	\$56.4m	\$123m (By UNOC 2025) \$393m (Total by 2030)



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